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WRTG 1320

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***Research Proposal***

For the past two assignments in this class, I have covered much of the negative effects concerning human/robotic relationships. And while there are more effects that I could cover in a research assignment, I’ve decided to go a different route in order to really gain a true grasp on the subject of human/robot relationships. For this research proposal, I wish to research the *positive* benefits of human/robot relationships. I do not know of any right off hand and that is why this question interests me so.

Concerning the positive benefit mentioned, I wish to explore the positive benefits that come out of, specifically, close, personal relationships with robots. While working with robots in an actual work environment is still relevant to this research proposal, it does not cover the type of factors that I am interested in knowing more about. For example, do human/robot relationships help us form other relationships in the future? Do they help us heal in a healthy way after a social or romantic relationship has ended? Do they allow positive psychological development while interaction is occurring? These are all questions I hope to answer with my research over the positive benefits of human/robot relationships.

I chose to write about this topic because, in all honesty, I have a bias against robots. Much like Detective Spooner, I don’t particularly care for personal relationships with robots because I think they are harmful to both society and the individual. I think that if an individual has a personal relationship with a robot, light to severe negative consequences will stem from that such as weakened social skills, cognitive skills, and overall intelligence. Because of that bias, I have chosen to write about this topic in hopes of overcoming that bias. Even though this is what I believe as of now, I feel that there is so much more to know and learn to order to truly form an opinion about human/robot relationships. Like I said, I don’t know of any positive benefits. This research proposal is designed to help change that.

As for my audience, they should be highly interested in this topic. I mean, why shouldn’t they? Most 21st century Americans are surrounded by some form of personal human/robot relationship on a 24/7 basis (i.e. Twitter, robotic toys, robotic appliances). Because of this connection, I would imagine that my audience would be interested in this topic because it involves things that are relevant to them and their lives. Twitter, I think to be the most relevant form of human/robot relationships in this society, surely has a wide variety of positive benefits to the individual and community. I would think that my audience would be eager to hear such information.

So while my bias still stands, I hope to expand my view of human/robot relationships to include both the negative *and* positive aspects involved. Who knows, this particular research assignment could change my opinion.

Austin,

Overall this is a wonderful Research Proposal. You met all of the points and are clearly interested in this topic. You may want to elaborate more on how your bias came about and make it just a tad bit longer.

Taylor Huntington